

Texas tornados start season with violence

United Press International

Texas' tornado season opened its peak month on a violent note, smashing homes and power lines, injuring at least six people, two of them seriously, and destroying a small West Texas town's public school building, officials said Wednesday.

The violent storms that visited much of west and northeast Texas Tuesday night abated Wednesday morning, but the heavy downpour and hail left in their wake prompted a flash flood watch through Wednesday for vast sections of north Texas.

Police officers M.J. Roberds and T.J. Pilling of the Dallas suburb of Garland suffered leg injuries Tuesday when they were hit by a car that swerved to avoid another vehicle during a storm. Both were in serious condition Wednesday.

Three other people in Garland suffered minor injuries when high winds toppled their mobile home.

The storms also dropped a tornado on Matador in West Texas, injuring an elderly woman and knocking out electricity and telephone service to most of the community. Some power had been restored Wednesday.

Addie Murphy, 82, of Matador was in stable condition at Central Plains Hospital in Plainview with broken bones and multiple cuts.

A Texas Department of Public Safety supervisor in Lubbock said the tornado, estimated to be a quarter-mile wide and a mile long, hit Matador.

At least 15 houses were destroyed and 13 houses were damaged. The funnel also destroyed a building housing the town's high school and elementary school.

Walt Ahrens, executive director of the Red Cross in Lubbock, said a team of staff and volunteers was in the small town assessing damage and offering help.

"It looks like somewhere in the neighborhood of 50 residents received from major to minor damage with the majority having minor damage," he said. "We did not have to open up a shelter last night."

The town in Motley County has a population of 1,052 and got its name from the large Matador Ranch that operated in the 19th century.

The storms' fury was felt throughout the Dallas area in the form of pea-sized to egg-sized hail. Collin County, north of Dallas, received 3 to 4 inches of hail. Trees and power lines

were downed in Lamar County. Some areas received more than 2 inches of rain in a four-hour period.

Late Wednesday, the National Weather Service said a warm front stretched from a low pressure center in the southern Panhandle across

North Texas. Patchy areas of light fog persisted over much of north central and northeast Texas, while showers and light rain was occurring offshore along the upper Gulf coast.

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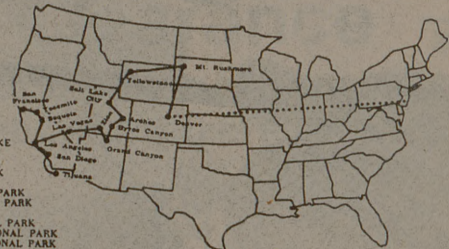
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 • Saturday 9 a.m. — Colleges of Business Administration, Education, Science, and Veterinary Medicine. Students from Texas A&M University at Galveston will also graduate at this time. Vice President George Bush will speak at the ceremony.

International

(continued from page 1)

Lopez, the oldest of nine children, got a scholarship and a job after his freshman year. But things in Bolivia make it almost impossible for his parents to put him through school.

"The salaries in Bolivia are not much," he said. "To make \$600 a month there is considered pretty good."

Another financial problem that internationals face is that immigration will allow them to work only 20 hours a week and only on campus, unless they get special permission.

Watkins said immigration doesn't want internationals to take away jobs from U.S. citizens.

So if the money runs out for internationals, they must get a job on campus. Otherwise, they're out of luck.

Offer Warshausky, a sophomore finance major from Israel, saved the money he made while in the Israeli Army so he could come to the United States to study. But the money ran out sooner than he expected. He's tried to get a job on campus, but so far he's been turned down.

"A Texan would prefer to hire a Texan and an American

would prefer to hire an American," Warshausky said. "And I can understand that—I'll just keep on trying."

Because his parents are helping him, he is able to stay ... for now.

But some financial help is available for internationals.

The state of Texas gives out 10 scholarships per Western Hemisphere country annually. These Good Neighbor Scholarships are given to the most qualified international students from colleges and universities in Texas and covers the cost of tuition.

This year almost 40 internationals from Texas A&M got a Good Neighbor Scholarship, Watkins said.

About 10 percent of the internationals here are on private sponsorships (usually from businesses or universities in their countries), about 8 percent are sent by their government, and the majority, 82 percent, are on their own or sent by their family.

Watkins said many internationals are sent not just by their parents, but by their whole family - aunts, uncles and cousins included.

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